

CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
4 September 1979

Court Orders Disclosure of CIA-University Ties

WASHINGTON

A federal judge here has ordered the Central Intelligence Agency to release the names of dozens of universities and researchers involved in controversial "mind control" research it financed in the 1960's and 1970's.

However, the judge deferred action on the order until Oct. 1 to give the C.I.A. time to contact the researchers to determine if they have any objections to the disclosures. The delay also will allow the C.I.A. time to designate the names as classified information, if appropriate, or to appeal the entire order.

The ruling followed requests by associates of consumer advocate Ralph Nader for the entire list of universities involved in the drug and behavioral-modification projects, code-named MX-ULTRA. In 1977 and 1978 the intelligence agency released the names of many universities that did not object to having their C.I.A. connections made public.

One of the lawyers who requested the names, John C. Sims, said it was possible that some of the researchers

involved still did not know that their studies had been financed with C.I.A. money "laundered" through foundations and research institutes.

In his ruling, U. S. District Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer said he had given "careful consideration" to arguments by C.I.A. Director Stansfield Turner that disclosure of the names of universities and researchers involved in the project would compromise C.I.A. "sources and methods."

In conducting the research, C.I.A. officials said they had hoped to better understand "brainwashing" techniques purportedly used by foreign governments. The C.I.A. also sponsored the research to find ways to get information from foreign agents.

'Invasion of Privacy'

To protect its sources in such research, Judge Oberdorfer suggested that the C.I.A. might properly classify the records on the grounds that their release could constitute a "clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy" of individual researchers.

As for universities, the judge said, their names also might be classified under a Presidential order that gives the C.I.A. director the authority to classify matters "in the interest of national defense or foreign policy."

Despite those suggestions, Judge Oberdorfer argued in favor of full disclosure. The situation, he said, "involves behavioral research that was carried on, for the most part, at American universities, with the witting or unwitting participation of American students, for a purpose which may be collateral to the main business of intelligence, and to an uncertain result."

Institutions thus far identified by the C.I.A. as having housed the C.I.A.-sponsored research are:

Columbia University, Cornell University and its medical school, the University of Denver, Emory University, the University of Florida, George Washington University, Harvard University, the University of Houston, the University of Illinois, Indiana University, the Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, McGill University, the University of Minnesota, Montana State College, the Ohio State University, the University of Oklahoma, the University of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, Queens College of the City University of New York, Rutgers University, the University of Richmond, Stanford University School of Medicine, the University of Texas, Texas Christian University, and the University of Wisconsin.